



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 2

Date 3-14-2011
LINDA McCULLOCH

File No. HB 310

HB 310: Clarify initiative language
Senate State Administration, RM 335
March 14, 2011 @ 3 PM
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good afternoon Mr. Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I support the concept of House Bill 310, because it may assist voters in making informed decisions in regard to initiatives and referendums appearing on the ballot.
- I'd like for it to be clear that the Secretary of State's Office is not responsible for drafting or approving the language for any ballot issue.
 - That's the job of the Attorney General. Therefore, I am not here to comment on the best way to draft the "for" and "against" statements for ballot issues.
- Instead, my support for this bill stems from two things:
 - The right of every voter to be an informed voter.
 - The number of calls my staff receives from voters with questions regarding the ballot language.
- Clarifying the ballot issue language will complement the efforts made by our office and the county election offices to eliminate voter confusion.
- In concept, HB 310 will protect the integrity of the ballot issue and referendum process and help every voter make informed decisions on their ballot.
- Vote "YES". Thank you for your time.